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Community E-lert®

DATE: June 16, 2005
TO: Community E-lert Recipients
FROM: Jeffrey Chen, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: Community E-lert #05-030

Community E-lert® is a registered trademark of the City of Medina Police Department. This announcement is provided as a public service to residents of Medina and Hunts Point. It is our intention to distribute these E-lerts following an occurrence or condition that may have public safety or community well-being implications. E-lerts are also available via fax for those residents without access to email.

MAIL THIEVES ARRESTED AFTER EARLY MORNING CRIMINAL ACTIVITY IN POINTS COMMUNITIES

On Thursday June 16th at approximately 4:00 AM, a Clyde Hill Officer came upon a pile of first class and junk mail in the center of 84th Avenue NE in the 2400 block. The on-duty Medina Officer was called to assist in searching the surrounding area for any suspicious persons or vehicles.

A white 1992 Chevrolet Cargo Van with extensive front-end damage and no rear taillights was located in the 9600 block of NE 24th Street. Upon contact, the two male occupants acted very nervous and claimed to be lost. In plain view on the backseat of the van was a pile of mail. After questioning each of the subjects, the two occupants admitted to stealing mail in the area. Both subjects were placed under arrest and booked into the King County Jail.

A search of the vehicle produced an abundant amount of stolen mail and property from victims throughout the Puget Sound area. A tape deck from a vehicle prowl in Bellevue was recovered, along with other mail and items belonging to victims in Medina, Hunts Point, Clyde Hill, Yarrow Point, Des Moines, Newcastle and Seatac. Methamphetamine and several knives were also recovered. At this time, Medina detectives have ascertained that several Medina residents in the north Evergreen Point and the Town of Hunts Point were victimized, although it is possible there are more residents who have yet to discover missing or damaged property. Medina Officers will be contacting victims as they are identified.

Medina Police Community E-lert #05-030

Both the Clyde Hill and Medina Police Departments will be conducting parallel investigations and filing charges against the two subjects, to include Vehicle Prowling, Mail Theft, Possession of Stolen Property and Possession of Methamphetamine. Other surrounding agencies may file additional charges against the two subjects as well for crimes committed in their respective cities.

The Medina Police Department is asking residents to examine your vehicles for any possible intrusion and call 911 if you have reason to believe your vehicle or mailbox was prowled.

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS:

- If you have a mailbox, be vigilant about checking your mail as soon as possible after delivery.
- Residents are encouraged to consider a locking mailbox or having mail sent to a post office box.
- If you see or hear any suspicious persons, activity or noise, call 911 immediately and an Officer will gladly respond and investigate, day or night.
- For further crime prevention information, visit the Medina Police Department website at www.medina-wa.gov . Select the Police Department link on the left side of the homepage, and once opened, choose 'Crime Prevention'.

If you wish to speak or make a comment about this incident, please email Chief Chen at jchen@medina-wa.gov .